

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (new): A communication method comprising the steps of:

connecting a second communication line capable of bi-directional communication to bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni-directional communication line, thereby virtually carrying out the bi-directional communication over said first communication line, wherein said transmitting means automatically detects addresses of nodes connected to a network at the transmitting side; and

determining a destination of a packet inputted to said transmitting means through a predetermined interface, then determining which network the packet should be transferred to in accordance with the determined destination of the packet, and then transferring the packet through the predetermined interface only when transfer is necessary, wherein said transmitting means holds the automatically detected addressee of the nodes connected to the network at the transmitting side in the form of a list, and said transmitting means determines whether or not the packet is transferred in accordance with said list.

Claim 14 (new): A communication method comprising the steps of:

connecting a second communication line capable of bi-directional communication to bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni-directional communication line, thereby virtually carrying out the bi-directional communication over said first communication line, wherein said transmitting means automatically detects addresses of nodes connected to a network at the transmitting side; and

determining a destination of a packet inputted to said transmitting means through a predetermined interface, then determining which network the packet should be transferred to in

accordance with the determined destination of the packet, and then transferring the packet through the predetermined interface only when transfer is necessary,

wherein said transmitting means holds the automatically detected addressee of the nodes connected to the network at the transmitting side in the form of a list, determines whether or not the packet is transferred in accordance with said list, regularly updates said list of the automatically detected addresses of the nodes connected to the network at the transmitting side, and wherein said transmitting means deletes from said list the address of the node which does not transmit the packet for a fixed time period or longer.

Claim 15 (new): A communication apparatus comprising:

a bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni-directional communication line;

an interface connected to a second communication line capable of bi-directional communication;

control means for determining a destination of a packet inputted through a predetermined interface, said control means includes detecting means for automatically detecting addresses of nodes connected to the network connected to the interface, then determining which network the packet is transferred to in accordance with the destination, and then executing transfer processing only when transfer is necessary; and

address storing means for holding the node addresses automatically detected by said detecting means in the form of a list, wherein said control means determines whether or not the packet is transferred in accordance with said list stored in said address storing means.

Claim 16 (new): A communication apparatus comprising:

a bridge type transmitting means for transmitting data to a first uni directional communication line;

an interface connected to a second communication line capable of bi directional communication;

control means for determining a destination of a packet inputted through a predetermined interface, said control means includes detecting means for automatically detecting addresses of

nodes connected to the network connected to the interface, then determining which network the packet is transferred to in accordance with the destination, and then executing transfer processing only when transfer is necessary; and

address storing means for holding the node addresses automatically detected by said detecting means in the form of a list, wherein said control means determines whether or not the packet is transferred in accordance with said list stored in said address storing means, wherein said control means regularly updates said list stored in said address storing means, and said control means deletes from said list the address of the node which does not transmit the packet for a fixed time period or longer.